



Serving Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow,  
Umatilla, Union and Wallowa Counties

Director's Report  
10-15-19  
EOWB Meeting

Greetings,

Wow... already the middle of October. It seems like yesterday I was preparing my July report. As usual your EOWB staff has been busy. As witnessed in one instance with the Policies and Procedures that Brenda and Sheri have compiled and you will find on the website [www.eowb.org](http://www.eowb.org) under the Consent agenda for your approval. This is also contract time of the year, and we have not only worked on contracts with the Training and Employment Consortium for the eight counties, but also federal WIOA funding and state grant fund contracts. Where many of the other Workforce areas had funds cut, EOWB saw an increase in WIOA dollars coming our way. Of course, the reason why is because of the higher unemployment rate and poverty levels in our area.

EOWB will begin work on our newest version of our Strategic plan. The state's Workforce Development and Talent Board recently released their plan and we will work from that to develop EOWB's. The state's plan is a one pager, down from about 30. So ours will be much shorter too. But this exercise does take the input from the Board and partners, so please say yes when Susie asks you to participate.

You will recall at the special meeting in June that you approved the recommendation of the committee on three projects with a total of \$48,000. Well that \$48,000. Is again in the budget to provide funding for projects throughout the area. As you will remember last year's budget at first provided each county with \$6,000 to help with a project but in the last quarter we scrambled to award the funds and see them spent prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>. 2019. In this year's budget like we ended up last year, the dollars may be used for one or more projects at the discretion of the Board. Once again Susie will be looking for volunteers to recommend criteria for the funding.

EOWB has contracted with Southern Oregon Workforce Board to assist the Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande to develop an Apprentice program for Certified Medical Assistants. The Grande Ronde Hospital has completed a registration agreement with BOLI to be the Training agent but our contract allows any and all hospitals in our area to do the same.

It is that time again when we must get Conflict of Interest agreements signed by all board members. We will send them out under separate cover. Please return them to Brenda at [brenda@eowb.org](mailto:brenda@eowb.org) by November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Susie led a delegation of ten to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Working Together Conference in Eugene in late September. Susie did us all proud with her presentation “from around the state” as she talked of TEC’s success with the GED Prep classes.

In December the nine Workforce Executive Directors from throughout Oregon will attend a daylong session at Apple Park. Our host Dr. Landis has asked us to share our perspective on how Apple sees the future of learning and work. We are hoping to discover opportunities to partner with schools, especially around K-12, career and technical education and community colleges. It has been described by Dr. Landis as the focus on technology to improve efficiency.

Please welcome new Board members Jon Irvine who is our new Labor liaison replacing Mark Warne, Tara Morrell Regional Manager for OED, replacing Deb Gargalis and Kallie Davis Port of Morrow Workforce Training Program Manager representing Morrow County and replacing Debbie Radie.

I hope to hear your cheerful voice and face on Tuesday morning... remember if there is ever anything I can assist you with please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Thanks for reading  
Bill